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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION

Application No.: 10/814,519

Title: Valve for Winterizing a Pool)
Inventor: Dimce Vasilev)
Filing Date: March 31, 2004)

Art Unit: 3753
Examiner: LEE, CLOUD K.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents
PO BOX 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 12, 2006
John Lagowski

This Amendment is filed within 3 months of the date of the first Office Action.

The above-identified application was filed with 20 claims.

In the first Office Action, March 6, 2006, the Examiner rejected independent claims 1, 7, 13, and 16 under 35 USC 102(b), as anticipated by *Skarzynski* (US Patent No. 3,704,002). Dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10-12, 14, 15, 17, 18, and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b). And dependent claims 4, 9, and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a). Applicant agrees with the Examiner's description of the *Skarzynski* disclosure; however, Applicant respectfully asserts that new claims 21-35 are allowable over *Skarzynski*.

Applicant requests further examination of the present application in view of the new claims.